



Diversity and Sustainability in Library Exhibits



University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Hamilton Library
Suzhen Chen, Cataloging | Myra Waddell, SciTech Reference | Jean Thoulag, Access Services
suzhen@hawaii.edu waddellm@hawaii.edu thoulagj@hawaii.edu

Exhibits at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Libraries

The Library Exhibits Committee oversees three main galleries, plus display cases in the Library Lobby. UHM Library Exhibits aim to:

- Publicize UH library resources.
- Inform users about Library services and facilities.
- Display materials on themes or events of interest in the community.
- Publicize the resources and organizations of the University.

The committee consists of 5 to 7 volunteer Library faculty and staff who rotate responsibilities:

- Attend monthly meetings to discuss and vote on exhibit proposals.
- Facilitate exhibit installation, de-installation and management.
- Solicit and market exhibits.
- Resolve exhibits related problems.

Several Library departments produce exhibits for display in their collection areas:

- Archives & Manuscripts
- Asia
- Government Documents & Maps
- Hawaiian & Pacific Collections
- Sinclair Library
- Science & Technology

Exhibits Committee Workflow



Diversity in Library Exhibits



Precolumbian and Colonial Latin American Art and Objects
Curator: Dr. Christine Beaulé
Latin American & Iberian Studies, UHM
(A committee-facilitated exhibit)

The World of Miniature Books
Curator: Jean Thoulag, Access Services, UHM Hamilton Library
(A committee-facilitated exhibit)



Ho'ohāli'ali'a: Remembering Her Majesty
Curator: Keahiahi Long
Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, UHM
(A committee-facilitated exhibit)



Most Wanted
Curator: Jan Sung
Sci-Tech Reference, Hamilton
(A department-facilitated exhibit)



New Year Celebrations in Asia
Curator: Dongyun Ni, Asia Department, Hamilton Library
(A department-facilitated exhibit)



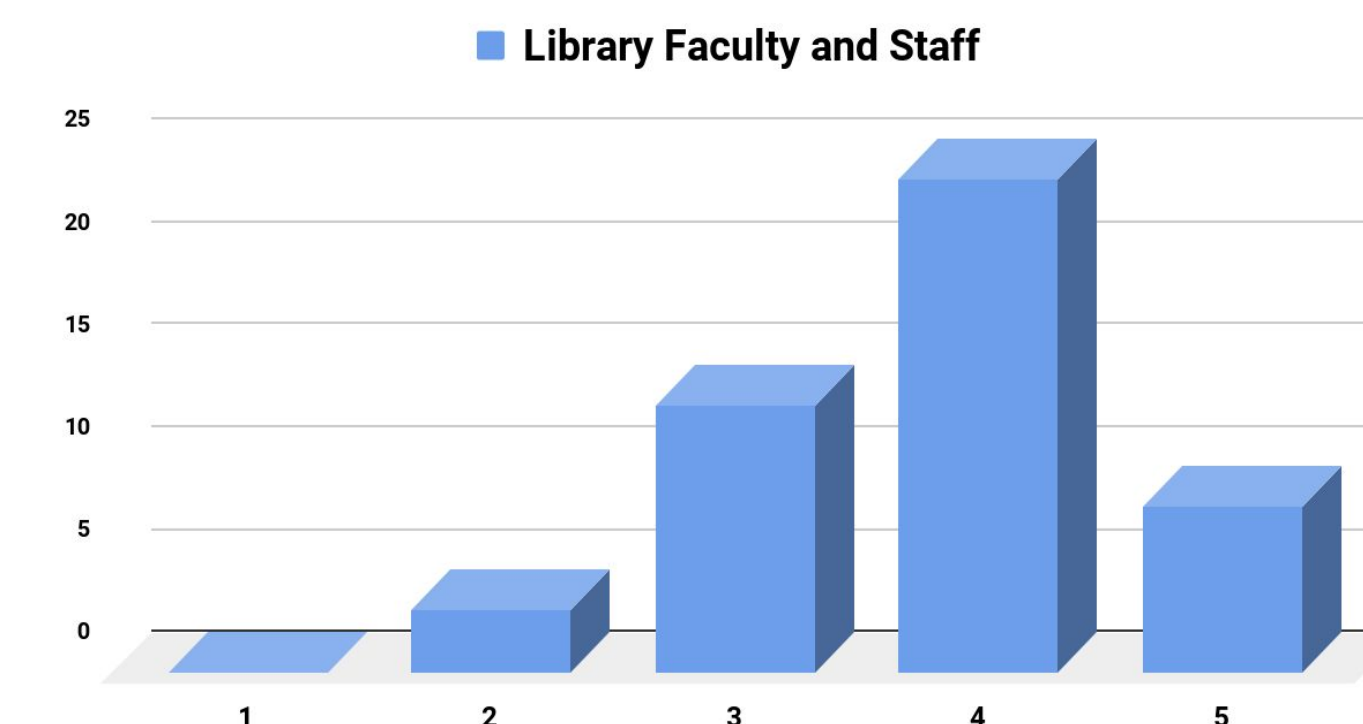
Library Exhibits Survey

An in-house Library Exhibits Survey was conducted with UHM Library faculty and staff. The survey aimed to gain understanding of participants' perceptions and involvement with library exhibits. A total of 48 participants responded. Participants were asked questions related to:

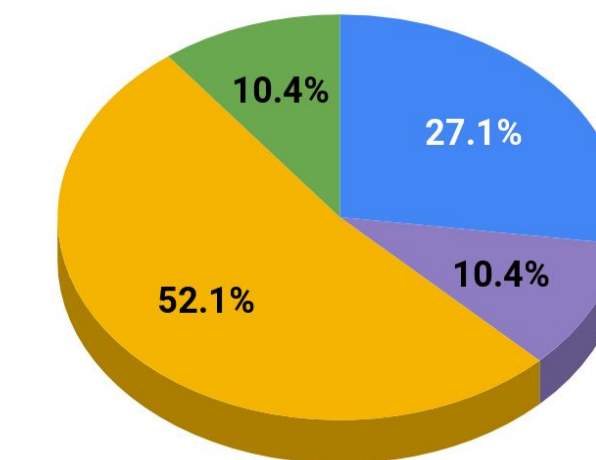
- Overall satisfaction with exhibits at UHM Libraries.
- Preferences in exhibit types, styles, and themes.
- Personal contributions to exhibit production.
- Departmental contributions to exhibit production.

In addition, participants provided general comments with suggestions for improvements. The Exhibits Committee plans to use the survey results to strengthen sustainability and diversity within the committee and in future exhibit production.

Overall satisfaction with eye catching, thoughtful displays that are interesting and meaningful. With 1 indicating low satisfaction and 5 indicating high satisfaction.



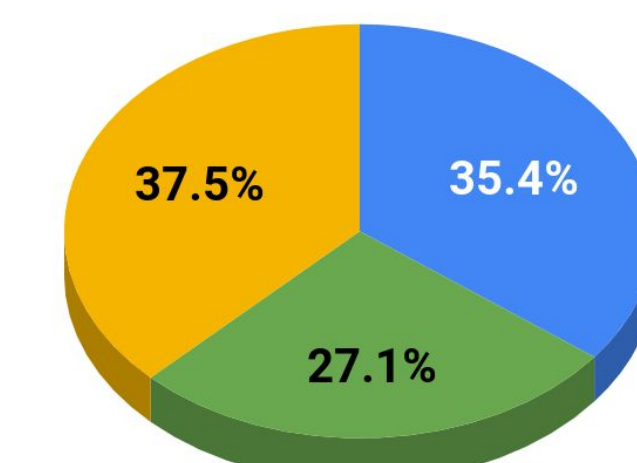
Would you ever consider assisting with exhibits, or creating an exhibit on your own or with a team?



- Yes, I would participate on my own or with a team.
- Yes, I would participate on a team only.
- Perhaps, although not interested at this time.
- No thanks, I am not interested at all.

Almost 90% of the participants indicated interest in creating and/or assisting with exhibit development.

Do you use Library interns or student workers to help with exhibits?



- Yes.
- No.
- I have not created an exhibit in the library.

Using library interns or student workers to assist with exhibit creation may increase sustainability and promote diversity.

Summary

Sustainability in UHM Library Exhibits is achievable by:

- Focused committee purpose and goals.
- Dedicated committee members who rotate responsibilities.
- Individual Library department contributions.
- Assistance from Library interns and student workers.
- UHM campus relationships.
- Relationships with people and organizations across the local community.

Diversity in UHM Library Exhibits is displayed through:

- The Exhibits Committee's commitment to diversity.
- Variety in exhibit display spaces.
- Individual Library department displays reflect diverse collections, cultures, topics, and resources.
- Varied UHM cultures, programs, and departments.
- Willingness to host organizations from the greater Hawai'i community.

Library Exhibits Survey: Insights that may strengthen sustainability and diversity for the future:

- Librarians and staff express interest in assisting with exhibits, which indicates the committee can work to encourage more Library employee collaboration and involvement.
- Library department contributions to exhibit creation will ensure variety and shared responsibility.
- Increasing Library intern and student worker assistance can help manage workload and provide valuable learning experiences.
- Improving exhibit installation and signage standards will help establish clear expectations, improve communication, and enhance overall quality.

Resources

UHM Library Exhibits Website: <http://library.manoa.hawaii.edu/about/exhibits/>
UHM Library Exhibits Policy and Procedures: <http://go.hawaii.edu/11j>
UHM Library Exhibits Proposal Form: <http://go.hawaii.edu/11e>